

## Message Text

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16  
ORIGIN SS-25

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R 220142Z FEB 75  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY RANGOON

S E C R E T STATE 040599

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: NEW SHAN PROPOSAL

REFERENCES: A. BANGKOK 2001; B. RANGOON 0329;  
-- C. STATE 33138

1. REPRESENTATIVE LESTER WOLFF GAVE A COPY OF THE NEW SHAN OPIUM-BUYING PROPOSAL TO EA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY EDMOND ON FEBRUARY 19 AT THE CONCLUSION OF A MEETING ARRANGED BY THE CONGRESSMAN FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPLAINING HIS FIRM DETERMINATION TO GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO THE FIGHT AGAINST NARCOTICS ABUSE. THIS MAJOR INTEREST, HE SAID, HAD LED HIM TO SEEK EVERY MEANS POSSIBLE TO STRIKE AT THE ROOTS OF THE PROBLEM, INCLUDING ESTABLISHING CONTACTS WITH THE PRINCIPAL NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS IN SHAN STATE. THESE CONTACTS THROUGH BRITISH TV CORRESPONDENT ADRIAN COWELL HAD PRODUCED THE CURRENT PROPOSAL.

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2. REPRESENTATIVE WOLFF DID NOT WANT THE PROPOSAL

"PEREMPTORIALLY REJECTED AS WAS DONE PREVIOUSLY" BUT RATHER THAT IT BE GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. HE FRANKLY ADMITTED THAT THE PROPOSAL CONTAINED SHORTCOMINGS AND, IF ADOPTED, WOULD PRESENT PROBLEMS IN U.S. POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH BURMA. HE CHARACTERIZED AS "STUPID" THE NOTION THAT ONLY

"ONE TON" BE MADE AVAILABLE BY MAY 1 AND SAID SOMETHING LIKE 300 TONS WOULD MAKE THE DEAL MORE ATTRACTIVE. MORE-OVER, SINCE THE SHANS WERE ALREADY NEGOTIATING WITH THE GUB THROUGH RTG CHANNELS, INDEPENDENT CONTACTS BETWEEN THE US AND THE SHANS COULD COMPLICATE MATTERS, HE READILY OBSERVED. NONETHELESS, CONGRESSMAN WOLFF THOUGHT SOME USEFUL PURPOSE MIGHT BE SERVED IN UTILIZING THESE CONTACTS. HE STOOD READY TO ASSIST IN ANY WAY TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION TO SATISFY CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

3. CONGRESSMAN WOLFF SPECIFICALLY ASKED THAT THE PROPOSAL NOT REPEAT NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH THE BURMESE AT THIS TIME. HE WAS ANXIOUS THAT HIS CONTACTS NOT BE JEOPARDIZED BY PREMATURELY INFORMING THE GUB OF THIS INITIAL OFFER.

4. DURING THE MEETING, WHICH INCLUDED DEA ADMINISTRATOR BARTELS AND TWO OTHER DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, CONGRESSMAN WOLFF SAID HE DID NOT HAVE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS REGARDING, FOR EXAMPLE, THE EVENTUAL KIA ASSOCIATION WITH THIS SHAN ALLIANCE, THE PERIOD DURING WHICH THIS PROPOSAL WOULD REMAIN IN EFFECT, AND THE ACTUAL PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL OPIUM TRAFFICKING THIS GROUPING CONTROLLED. HE WANTED ANSWERS TO THESE AND RELATED QUESTIONS, AND HE WAS ASSURED THAT, WITHOUT STUDYING THE PROPOSAL, SUCH ISSUES WERE OF EQUAL CONCERN TO DEA AND THE DEPARTMENT.

5. OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ONE HOUR MEETING INCLUDED LISTENING TO A TAPED CONVERSATION BETWEEN CONGRESSMAN WOLFF AND SEVERAL SHAN LEADERS, HIS DESCRIBING THE TARA PROPOSAL AS A FAKE DOCUMENT, HIS URGING DEA TO GET AT LEAST ONE MAN IN BURMA, AND HIS QUESTIONING OF THE DESIRABILITY OF FURNISHING HELICOPTERS TO THE GUB WITHOUT THEIR  
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USE RECEIVING ADEQUATE SUPERVISION. FULL MEMCON WILL BE POUCHED.

6. TEXT OF PROPOSAL: PROPOSAL TO CONTROL AND ERADICATE THE SHAN OPIUM TRADE. AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SHAN PEOPLES, THE SIGNATORIES TO THESE PROPOSALS ARE CONCERNED BY THE MISERY CAUSED BY NARCOTIC ADDICTION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND INCREASINGLY INSIDE SHAN STATE. HOWEVER,

AS THE OPIUM TRADE THRIVES ON ANARCHY, AND AS MANY SHAN PEOPLES DEPEND ON OPIUM FOR THEIR LIVELIHOOD, ITS CULTIVATION WILL NEVER CEASE UNTIL SHAN STATE HAS A DEMOCRATIC AND REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, SUPPORTED BY A MAJORITY OF THE SHAN PEOPLES, CAPABLE OF CARRYING OUT A

LONG TERM AGRO-ECONOMIC PROGRAMME TO REPLACE OPIUM WITH EQUALLY VIABLE CROPS.

THE SIGNATORIES TO THESE PROPOSALS GUARANTEE THAT AS SOON AS A DEMOCRATIC SHAN GOVERNMENT IS ELECTED, TREATY WILL BE NEGOTIATED WHEREBY OPIUM IS ABOLISHED AFTER AN AGREED TRANSITION PERIOD IN RETURN FOR INTERNATIONAL AID AND EXPERTISE.

DURING THE INTERVENING PERIOD OF CIVIL DISORDER, THE SIGNATORIES PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING TEMPORARY MEASURES:

1. THE SIGNATORIES WILL SELL THE ANNUAL SHAN OPIUM CROP AT THE THAI BORDER PRICE TO ANY RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL OR GOVERNMENTAL BODY.
2. THE SIGNATORIES WILL COOPERATE WITH THE PURCHASER TO PREVENT OPIUM GROWN IN SHAN STATE BEING MARKETED BY PARTIES NOT SUBJECT TO THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT.
3. THE SIGNATORIES WILL PERMIT INSPECTION INSIDE SHAN STATE.
4. THE SIGNATORIES WILL ASSIST AND PARTICIPATE IN ANY ECONOMIC, AGRICULTURAL OR SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH AIMED AT REPLACING OPIUM WITH ALTERNATIVE CROPS.

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TO INITIATE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE SALE OF THE 1975 OPIUM CROP, THE FOLLOWING IMMEDIATE STEPS ARE PROPOSED:

1. BEFORE MAY 1ST 1975, THE SALE OF 1 TON OF OPIUM AT THE CURRENT THAI BORDER PRICE OF 3100 BAHT PER VISS.
2. ON THE SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION OF THIS SALE, A PRICE WILL BE DETERMINED, ON THE BASIS OF THE PREVAILING BORDER RATE, FOR A FURTHER PURCHASE OF 5 TONS OF OPIUM FROM EACH SEPARATE RESISTANCE ORGANIZATION THAT ATTENDS A SHAN OPIUM CONFERENCE TO BE HELD ON THE THAI BORDER IN JULY 1975 WHERE A FIXED PRICE FOR FUTURE OPIUM SALES AND A LONG TERM AGREEMENT WILL BE NEGOTIATED. END OF TEXT.

PROPOSAL WAS SIGNED BY SUA CHIEF OF STAFF ON JANUARY 16, 1975, BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SSA AND SSPP (NOT IDENTIFIED) CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SSAE (SHAN STATE ARMY-EASTERN) ON JANUARY 18, 1975. NAMES ARE UNDECIPHERABLE BUT EACH IS ACCOMPANIED BY

APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL-LOOKING STAMP IN ENGLISH AND BURMESE.

7. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS AND PARTICULARLY WHETHER YOU HAVE ANY THOUGHTS ON HOW THIS PROPOSAL MIGHT BE REVISED TO MAKE IT MORE VIABLE OR ACCEPTABLE. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NARCOTICS, DRUG CONTROL, PROCUREMENT, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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